Rentokil (Virginia Wood Preserving)

Henrico County, Virginia
Superfund Program Site Fact Sheet

Type of Facility: Former Wood Preserver

Contaminants: Creosote and Components, Copper, Chromium, Arsenic, Xylene, Pentachlorophenol (PCP), Dioxin

Funding: Enforcement financed

Site Description and History

The Rentokil site is on approximately 10 acres in Henrico County, Virginia. The facility was used for wood preserving operations between 1957 and 1990. During this period, different wood preserving chemicals were used including creosote, copper chromated arsenate (CCA), and PCP. As a result, soil, ground water, surface water and sediment were contaminated. Some existing and past sources that had the potential to contribute constituents to the environment include a blowdown sump, a drip pad, a formerly covered holding lagoon, an underground drain pipe, a "CCA disposal area", and a fill area.

The site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in March 1989. Operations stopped in January 1990, all equipment was removed from the site and the area covered with clean gravel.

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was completed in January 1993. During phase II of the RI, sampling indicated levels of arsenic in portions of the creek exceeded the allowable limit for aquatic life.

Rentokil and EPA signed an Administrative Order by Consent in March 1992, and Virginia Properties (owner of the site) implemented interim storm water control measures to reduce the sediment and arsenic contamination entering North Run Creek. Subsequent sampling of surface water and sediment in portions of North Run Creek showed a significant decrease in arsenic and chromium levels in both surface water and sediment. Virginia Properties has maintained site security, including fences and signs.

The Record of Decision (ROD) was completed in June 1993. The ROD called for:

- demolition, decontamination, and off-site disposal of existing structures
- excavation and off-site incineration of K001 waste from the unlined pond
- extraction and on-site carbon adsorption treatment of surface water from the unlined pond

- excavation and low temperature thermal desorption of the dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) soils (within 25 feet of the concrete drip pad, unlined pond and former blowdown sump), and fixation treatment and on-site disposal of the CCA disposal area and the fill area soils
- off-site disposal of drums excavated from fill area
- construction of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Subtitle C cap over surface soils exceeding cleanup levels
- installation of a slurry wall
- excavation and on-site disposal of contaminated surface soil beyond the extent of the cap
- construction of a dewatering system within the cap/slurry wall, and on-site carbon adsorption treatment of ground water
- excavation and on-site disposal of contaminated sediments in the Oxbow of North Run Creek
- sampling of Talley's Pond sediments and previously dredged sediments, with excavation, treatment and off-site disposal if sediments exceed cleanup levels
- long-term ground water monitoring
- institutional controls to prevent residential use of the site and the ground water

A Consent Decree between EPA and Virginia Wood Preserving became effective in September 1994. The Remedial Design Work Plan was approved in September 1994. In March 1995, the site owner sent a letter to EPA stating that they could not carry out the selected remedial design because of Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) compliance issues. Also, the site owner performed a Value Engineering Analysis that showed the treatment of the soil before capping did not improve the remedy. To resolve these issues, the ROD was amended in August 1996 to delete the excavation, low temperature thermal desorption, and on-site disposal of the DNAPL soils.

The final remedial design documents were submitted in September 1997 to reflect these changes and to accommodate the Potentially Responsible Party's (PRP's) desire to develop the site for light industry. VDEQ and EPA provided comments to the PRP in December 1997.

The Remedial Action Work Plan was approved in May 1998. The remedial action construction was completed and a final remedial construction inspection was held on September 9, 1999. In the winter of 1999/2000, site drainage was changed to reduce the amount of water collecting in wetland C.

Threats and Contaminants

The ground water, soil, sediment and surface water are contaminated with PCP, creosote, copper, chromium, arsenic and dioxin from former wood preserving operations. Risks exist if individuals accidentally ingest or come in direct contact with contaminated ground water, surface water, or soil. Contaminated surface water could affect nearby

livestock or crops if it is used for watering or irrigation. Site runoff entering nearby wetlands may adversely affect them.

In 1987, area residents were hooked up to county water, free of charge. Homes located to the north and east of the site are on the municipal water supply.

Current Site Status

The ground water collection system will continue to operate as long as required, and site monitoring continues.

Community Relations and Concerns

A public meeting was held on January 20, 1993, to present the Proposed Plan. A public notice was placed in the newspaper announcing the ROD and a notice was sent to citizens. There was also a press release to local media announcing the Consent Decree. A public meeting was held on May 14, 1996, to present the proposed changes to the ROD, and a public meeting was held on May 12, 1998, to present the remedial design.

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